

BUTTERFLIES OBSERVED AND COLLECTED NEAR WERANGA, SOUTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

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Introduction

Weranga is a railway siding, approximately 67 km west of Dalby, south-east Queensland. The vegetation comprises open Box and Ironbark (*Eucalyptus*) scrub, with denser stands of Box, Pine (*Callitris*) and Wilga (*Geijera*) scrub. Low ridges occur at intervals throughout the area. During the past four years I have collected and observed thirty four species of butterflies in the district.

Of particular interest is the record of *Cressida cressida cressida* (Fabricius) based on a single female found dead on the ground. This species has not previously been recorded so far west at this latitude (cf. Common and Waterhouse, 1972). Moulds (1973) records this butterfly from Springsure, some 130 km north-west of Weranga, but other records appear to be much nearer the coast.

Immense populations of *Anaphaeis java teutonia* (Fabricius) have been observed in varying numbers from late December to about the end of March. Larvae and pupae have been found on species of Capparidaceae. Most pupae in the field appeared to decay, but those that were collected survived to emerge as adults. All adults were flying in a south-easterly direction.

Larvae and pupae of *Papilio aegeus aegeus* Donovan have been found on *Geijera* and collected. One larva collected pupated but failed to emerge, the pupa having been parasitised by a fly. Pupae observed on Wilga were either green (on the leaves) or grey-brown (closer to the ground on the trunks).

Observed, but not collected, was a specimen of *Appias paulina egea* (Boisduval), in December 1974. Adults of either *Ogyris oroetes* Hewitson or *Appias Waterhouse*, were also observed flying about mistletoe on eucalypts. It is hoped that further collecting will result in capture and positive identification of these species.

List of species

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| PYLIONIDAE | |
| <i>Papilio anactus</i> W. S. Macleay | November to March |
| <i>Papilio aegeus aegeus</i> Donovan | October to May |
| <i>Papilio demoleus sthenelus</i> W. S. Macleay | All months except June & July |
| <i>Papilio cressida cressida</i> (Fabricius) | November |
| PAPILIONIDAE | |
| <i>Papilio pyranthe crokera</i> (W. S. Macleay) | October to February |
| <i>Papilio pomona pomona</i> (Fabricius) | October to February |
| <i>Papilio gorgophone gorgophone</i> (Boisduval) | December to February |
| <i>Papilio hecabe phoebus</i> (Butler) | December to February, May |
| <i>Papilio smilax</i> (Donovan) | December to February |
| <i>Papilio herla</i> (W. S. Macleay) | January, February |

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| <i>Elodina parthia</i> (Hewitson) | May |
| <i>Elodina padusa</i> (Hewitson) | December to May |
| <i>Delias argenthona argenthona</i> (Fabricius) | November |
| <i>Delias aganippe</i> (Donovan) | November to December |
| <i>Anaphaeis java teutonia</i> (Fabricius) | All months except May to July |
| NYMPHALIDAE | |
| <i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i> (Linnaeus) | December |
| <i>Danaus chrysippus petilia</i> (Stoll) | November to January |
| <i>Danaus hamatus hamatus</i> (W. S. Macleay) | December, January |
| <i>Euploea core corinna</i> (W. S. Macleay) | October, November to April |
| <i>Hypocysta metirius</i> Butler | December, January |
| <i>Hypocysta pseudirius</i> Butler | December, January |
| <i>Heteronympha merope merope</i> (Fabricius) | December |
| <i>Polyura pyrrhus sempronius</i> (Fabricius) | December, February, April |
| <i>Hypolimnas bolina nerina</i> (Fabricius) | December |
| <i>Vanessa kershawi</i> (McCoy) | November to March |
| <i>Vanessa itea</i> (Fabricius) | December to May |
| <i>Precis villida calybe</i> (Godart) | October to May |
| <i>Acraea andromacha andromacha</i> (Fabricius) | December, January |
| LYCAENIDAE | |
| <i>Lucia limbaria</i> Swainson | May |
| <i>Nacaduba biocellata biocellata</i> (C. & R. Felder) | November to March |
| <i>Syntarucus plinius pseudocassius</i> (Murray) | November |
| <i>Lampides boeticus</i> (Linnaeus) | December, January |
| <i>Neolucia serpentata serpentata</i> (Herrich-Schaffer) | All months except May to Aug. |
| <i>Zizina otis labradus</i> (Godart) | November to March |

References

- Common, I. F. B. and Waterhouse, D. F., 1972. *Butterflies of Australia*. Angus & Robertson, Sydney. 498 pp.
- Moulds, M. S., 1973. The butterflies of Springsure, Central Highlands, Queensland. *Aust. ent. Mag.* 1(5): 67-70.

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Compiled by M. S. Moulds

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The predator is identified as the robber fly *Phellus pilliferus*.